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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a nucleic acid comprising ~~the steps of~~:

contacting ~~the~~ a probe ~~of claim 1~~ with a nucleic acid sample ~~and then~~, wherein the probe comprises a nucleic acid and further comprises a labeling substance that releases energy and an energy-absorbing substance that absorbs the energy released from the labeling substance, wherein the labeling substance is positioned on the nucleic acid 0 to 1 nucleotides apart from the energy-absorbing substance, and when the probe hybridizes with a target nucleic acid in the nucleic acid sample and forms a hybridized double-stranded nucleic acid, the energy-absorbing substance interacts with the double-stranded nucleic acid and no longer absorbs the energy released from the labeling substance thereby resulting in no quenching of the labeling substance, and

measuring energy released from the labeling substance.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the presence of the energy released from the labeling substance indicates the hybridization of the probe with the target nucleic acid.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the energy is photo energy.

12. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the labeling substance is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent substance, a delayed fluorescent substance, and a chemiluminescent substance.

13. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the energy-absorbing substance is an intercalator.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the intercalator is selected from the group consisting of acridine, anthracene, pyrene, and derivatives thereof.

15. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the labeling substance is fluorescein, and the energy-absorbing substance is selected from the group consisting of pyrene, coumarin, and acridine.

16. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the probe is immobilized on a solid phase carrier for detecting a nucleic acid.